

avoid costly regulatory requirements, many companies decide to merge with others, which usually results in job cuts.

To help solve this problem, my bill would create a new category of issuers, called "Emerging Growth Companies" that have less than \$1 billion in annual revenues when they register with the SEC and less than \$700 million in public float after the IPO. These companies will have as many as five years to transition to full compliance with a variety of federal regulations that are expensive and burdensome to new companies. This "on-ramp" status will allow small and midsize companies the opportunity to save on expensive compliance costs and create cash needed to successfully grow their businesses and create new American jobs.

I am proud to have Mr. CARNEY from Delaware and 26 additional co-sponsors from both sides of the aisle join me in introducing this bill today. With unemployment holding steady just under 9 percent, this bill would help bring investments back to the United States and help our best job creators put Americans back to work.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. MARVIN  
ANDREW McMICKLE

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of the Eleventh Congressional District of Ohio, I rise today to recognize a religious leader, constituent, and friend in my District. At the beginning of January 2012, Reverend Dr. Marvin Andrew McMickle will assume his new full-time role of President at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. For the past 24 years, Dr. McMickle has been the Pastor of Antioch Baptist Church, leading his flock and many others to join him in the fight for social, racial, and economic justice. Dr. McMickle's travels to Israel, Greece, Austria, Senegal and the West Indies are testaments of this effort to uphold his teachings of justice. His leadership in Northeast Ohio is unmatched. He served on numerous boards and led organizations, including President of the Cleveland NAACP between 1989 and 1992.

Dr. McMickle's many accomplishments can be attributed to his educational credentials. Over the years, Dr. McMickle has obtained several post-secondary degrees, two of which are Doctorates from Princeton Theological Seminary and Case Western Reserve University. He used his many years of education to perpetuate the transfer of biblical knowledge and insight to instruct a Homiletics course at Ashland Theological Seminary in Ohio. In addition to academic leadership, Dr. McMickle has written numerous books, articles and sermons to serve as tools and guidelines for others to develop their ministries.

Congratulations to Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School for selecting such an exceptional man, husband, father and leader as their new President. Dr. McMickle will be deeply missed in my district, but I know his work at Colgate will continue to change the world.

IN HONOR OF THE LEMAY FIRE  
DISTRICT

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Lemay Fire District, which will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 2012.

The history of Lemay Fire District can be traced back as early as 1902. Due to unrestricted building, no fire protection, and bad roads, some insurance companies refused to write insurance in the Lemay area. So, after several disastrous fires, the Luxemburg Improvement Association organized a volunteer fire department in 1902. The Longwood Volunteer Fire Department Fire Association was organized two years later to provide protection to the south side of Lemay.

There still remained an area between the two that had no fire protection, so a group of citizens organized the Bismark Heights Volunteer Fire Department. The department added equipment through the years but had experienced difficulty keeping track and caring for the equipment. So in July 1911, the Bismark Heights Volunteer Department incorporated so it could have recourse to law to protect the equipment. This incorporation would eventually lead to the Lemay Fire Protection District.

In 1917 the Bismark Heights Volunteer Department changed its name to Dewey Heights Volunteer Fire Department, the change being recorded in 1922. A fire house was built in the summer of 1919 at the corner of Orient and Erskine Avenue.

On December 6, 1920 the Longwood and Luxemburg Volunteer Fire departments were invited to consolidate with Dewey Heights as one organization. By 1921, both departments turned their equipment and assets over to Dewey Heights.

In 1933, a tag system was introduced to pay for the protection which consisted of 1500 people. Later that year, full time firefighters were added, giving 24 hour service.

In May 1942, the voters in the Lemay area approved a tax-supported fire district. The Dewey Heights Fire Department was officially named the Lemay Fire Protection District. The district operated out of the fire station located at Erskine and Orient Avenue until 1992.

In 1979, the fire district added another service to help the community; it hired paramedics and established an ambulance service. The fire district not only responded to fires, but began treating and transporting sick and injured people to the hospital.

In 1991, land was purchased, and a new firehouse was built at 1201 Telegraph Road in central Lemay. The firehouse opened in 1992 and is still being used today.

The great flood of 1993 impacted the Lemay area and the Lemay Fire District responded to help its citizens once again. The north part of Lemay has been flooded causing propane tanks to become loose and creating an exposing hazard. With the help of many fire agencies, the disaster was prevented and lives were saved.

The Lemay Fire Protection District continues to serve the citizens of Lemay with twenty four firefighters. While many things have changed over the last 100 years, the one constant that has remained the same has been the unwavering commitment to the community.

HONORING ERIC MASSARI

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedication and service of Mr. Eric Massari of Waterbury, Connecticut, one of our nation's distinguished heroes.

Mr. Massari served in the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), also known as "Merrill's Marauders," a group that operated in Southeast Asia during World War II. This elite and all-volunteer unit successfully conducted numerous daring missions behind Japanese lines.

Throughout their service, these volunteers suffered from a multitude of illnesses and diseases, extreme malnutrition and countless encounters in which they were both outgunned and outnumbered. By the end of the war, the Marauders had advanced approximately 750 miles through one of the harshest jungles in the world. Of the 2,750 men to cross enemy lines, only two were left alive who had not been hospitalized. Mr. Massari was one of these two men, and explains that he "had the good lord on [his] shoulders at all times."

The Marauders have received widespread and deserved recognition for their heroic acts. There have been books, movies, and comic books depicting their brave encounters.

Waterbury is lucky to have such a hero living in Town Plot. Each soldier has been awarded the Bronze Star, and the unit has been awarded a Distinguished Unit Citation. However, one of the most meaningful recognitions for Mr. Massari came in the form of a postcard that he received last month. It was a thank you card from a group of Chinese students, who had recently learned about the Marauders in school. They wanted to express their appreciation for being rescued from the Japanese by Massari's unit some 67 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, Eric Massari represents the kind of courage, honor, and character that all of us should admire. As a distinguished veteran and a former employee at the Waterbury Tool Company, Mr. Massari has spent his life serving our country and the great state of Connecticut. I ask my colleagues and the entire country to join me in honoring the service of Eric Massari, and all of our veterans.

A TRIBUTE TO LAVERNE NIMMONS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Laverne Nimmons for her service towards educating the youth of Brooklyn and her high expectations for her community.

Dr. Nimmons was born in South Carolina and migrated to Brownsville, Brooklyn in 1960 where her mother would instill in her a lifelong passion for teaching. Dr. Nimmons' mother was a teacher at PS 137K and eagerly and ambitiously pushed her daughter towards studying public education. Dr. Nimmons attended Queens College after the passing of her mother and would receive her Bachelors

and Masters degree in Education. She continued her educational pursuits, receiving her Professional Degree in Administration and Supervision from St. John's University, and a PhD in Educational Leadership from Fordham University.

In 2003, Dr. Nimmons began an eight year career as Principal of Granville T. Woods Public School 335, which serves the predominantly African American, Crown Heights and Bedford Stuttesant Brooklyn neighborhoods. In this time Dr. Nimmons increased the passing rates in both mathematics and English courses by 67% and 61% respectively. With the guide of Dr. Nimmons P.S. 335 made the transformation, showing most gains of any other 4th grade students in New York State in mathematics and English. This earned the school the distinction of a National Blue Ribbon Award.

Prior to becoming Principal at Granville T. Woods School, Dr. Nimmons was the director of curriculum and instruction for Community School District Sixteen. In this capacity she directed elementary and middle school Principals and teachers in professional development activities in all curriculum areas. The district that was once one of the lowest performing in the city, now boasts better gains than many other New York City school districts in similar socioeconomic communities.

Dr. Nimmons has been awarded many prestigious awards for her dedicated service: the Terrell Bell Award for Excellence in Leadership, Educator of the Year Award in 2009 and 2011 from Education Update Magazine, and the 2010 Outstanding Educator of the Year from the Association of Black Educators in New York. Dr. Nimmons is currently a member of the Cahn Fellows Program for Distinguished Public School Principals at Teachers College, Columbia University.

Dr. Nimmons' leadership, compassion and knowledge make her an example to all in our community. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the vast achievements of Dr. Laverne Nimmons.

#### THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE FOR THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

**HON. KATHLEEN C. HOCHUL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 8, 2011*

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, even though we are approaching the conclusion of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, we still live in a dangerous world. But if we look back over the past two decades we can see that considerable progress has been made.

In 1991 the Soviet Union disintegrated, according to our late, great Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, a victim of ethnic tensions among the various and diverse republics that made up the USSR. Two decades later, much change has taken place in the former Soviet Union. Independent democracies have begun to emerge where once there were just brutal dictatorships. The Cold War is now over and we no longer have the same types of demands on our defense infrastructure prevalent of that era.

There is one former Soviet Republic that I would like to single out today and congratulate

on the 20th anniversary of its independence, the Republic of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan has been a good friend of the United States, co-operating with us on the war on terror and the program to prevent former Soviet nuclear weapons from falling into the wrong hands. Azerbaijan has also provided important logistical support to our forces in Afghanistan and sent over 150 soldiers to assist us in our efforts in that country.

As a secular Shiite Muslim country, Azerbaijan has been a role model. Before Azerbaijan was incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1918, after the Russian Revolution, the country enjoyed a brief period of independence, and was the very first Muslim country to grant women the right to vote in 1918, two years before the United States did so with the ratification of the 19th Amendment.

Azerbaijan has also enjoyed strong relations with Israel and the over 12,000 Azeri Jews are treated as full members of that society. Unlike most Muslim countries, Azerbaijan has full diplomatic relations with Israel and has hosted Israeli President Shimon Peres on a state visit in 2009. Israel is also Azerbaijan's 5th largest trading partner, and Azerbaijan provides over one-sixth of Israel's oil supply. As a result of these strong relations, when almost 600 Israeli citizens were stranded in Georgia at the beginning of the Russian invasion of that country and the Tbilisi Airport closed, Azerbaijan sent buses to the Georgian border to help evacuate the Israelis.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to concur with President Obama's statement on October 20, 2011 that "This 20th anniversary of independence, and Azerbaijan's achievements during this time, demonstrate the extraordinary promise and determination of the Azeri people. The United States is committed to developing greater opportunities to work with the Government and people of Azerbaijan."

#### TRIBUTE TO BEN MCKINNON, "GODFATHER OF BIRMINGHAM RADIO"

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 8, 2011*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of Alabama's radio pioneers, Mr. Ben McKinnon, who recently passed away at the age of 89. An influential force in broadcasting throughout the Southeast, Ben was perhaps best known as the "Godfather" of Birmingham radio.

Born in Maxton, North Carolina, Ben graduated from the University of North Carolina with an AB in Journalism. As the nation became involved in the Second World War, Ben answered his country's call to duty by serving as a line officer in the U.S. Navy. Seeing action in both the Atlantic and Pacific theatres, Ben led one of the major assault waves on Yellow Beach in Okinawa.

Upon returning home from the war, Ben traded his service pistol for a typewriter as editor of three weekly newspapers in his home county. But it wasn't long before his gaze turned toward the growing broadcast industry. He soon joined the staff of legendary Charlotte radio station WBT as local sales manager. Three years later he was hired as general

manager of television station WGVL in Greenville, SC. His skills as a manager quickly brought him down to Alabama where he took the reins of Birmingham radio station WSGN. From that point on, he would call Alabama's largest city his home.

As vice president and general manager and later president of WSGN, Ben transformed the radio station into a dominant player in Birmingham and north Alabama broadcasting. Under his leadership, WSGN—known as "The Big 610"—thundered across the airwaves with the Magic City's first full-time "top 40" format. For those who listened to radio in the 50s and 60s, rock 'n roll was king. Under Ben's direction, WSGN proudly wore the crown in Birmingham radio and earned a spot as one of the nation's top rock 'n roll stations.

Upon his retirement after 28 years with WSGN, Ben remained a strong voice in the state's communications industry. As executive director of the Alabama Broadcasters Association, he was a frequent visitor to Washington, DC to advocate on behalf of our local radio and television stations. He led the ABA for 18 years before retiring a second time.

Mr. Speaker, Ben's awards and accomplishments are, frankly, too extensive to list here. He was active in numerous major Birmingham area community service organizations for decades, ranging from board member of the Jefferson County March of Dimes and the Birmingham Chapter of the American Red Cross, to president of the Jefferson County Chapter of the American Cancer Society—to name but a few.

His remarkable career and many contributions to society are further highlighted by an impressive array of recognitions including the Thad Holt Distinguished Broadcaster Award from the University of Alabama School of Communications, the Silver Plate Award from the South Carolina Association of Broadcasters, the Broadcaster of the Year Award from the Alabama Broadcasters Association, and the National Association of Broadcasters State Executive of the Year Award.

On behalf of the people of Alabama, I wish to offer condolences to Ben's daughters, Sharon Bruns, Ellen McKinnon and Lisa McKinnon; and grandchildren and many friends. You are each in our thoughts and prayers. Ben was well loved and will be sorely missed.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE CAREER AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE HONORABLE NETTIE MAYERSOHN

**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 8, 2011*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the exceptional achievements and outstanding career of New York State Assemblywoman Nettie Mayersohn. Nettie was the political midwife to a generation of young politicians in New York. She spent decades working tirelessly for the people of Queens, and I know I speak for many when I say that her recent retirement from the Assembly has truly marked the end of an era. Nettie is being honored this week for her innumerable accomplishments over many years by the Stevenson Regular Democratic Club at its